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Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE***In re* Application of

Thomas FOXEN, et al.

Serial Number 10/767,465

Filed: January 28, 2004

For: ARTICLE OF FOOTWEAR HAVING A
FLUID-FILLED BLADDER WITH A
REINFORCING STRUCTURE

Art Unit: 3728

Examiner: Kavanaugh, J.

Attorney Reference: 005127.00278

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed January 25, 2006, please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

18. (Original) The sole component recited in claim 15, wherein the bladder includes at least one flexion indentation formed in the second surface such that a space is formed between the indentation and the first surface, the space including the fluid.

19. (Original) The sole component recited in claim 18, wherein the indentation extends from a lateral side of the bladder to a medial side of the bladder.

20. (Original) The sole component recited in claim 18, wherein the first surface and the second surface are joined through an interior of the bladder by a plurality of interior bonds that are spaced inward from a sidewall of the bladder.

21. (Original) The sole component recited in claim 20, wherein at least one of the interior bonds joins the first surface with the indentation.

22. (Original) The sole component recited in claim 20, wherein at least three of the interior bonds join the first surface with the indentation.

23. (Original) The sole component recited in claim 18, wherein the bladder includes two of the indentation.

24. (Original) The sole component recited in claim 18, wherein the indentation is positioned in a forefoot region of the bladder.

25. (Original) The sole component recited in claim 15, wherein the bladder includes at least two chambers, and the fluid within the two chambers exhibit different fluid pressures.

26. (Currently Amended) A sole component for an article of footwear, the sole component comprising:

a bladder formed of a barrier material that encloses a fluid, the bladder having a first surface and an opposite second surface, a spacing between the first surface and the second surface being greater in a heel region of the bladder than in a forefoot

region of the bladder, and the bladder having a first width in the heel region and a second width in the forefoot region, the first width being less than the second width; and

a reinforcing structure secured to the bladder and extending at least partially around the bladder, the reinforcing structure extending from the first surface to the second surface in the heel region and only partially from the first surface to the second surface in the forefoot region.

27. (Original) The sole component recited in claim 26, wherein the first surface and the second surface are joined by a plurality of interior bonds that are spaced inward from a sidewall of the bladder.

28. (Original) The sole component recited in claim 26, wherein the bladder is formed of a first barrier layer and a second barrier layer, the first barrier layer forming the first surface and a sidewall, and the second barrier layer forming the second surface.

29. (Original) The sole component recited in claim 28, wherein the reinforcing structure is secured to the first barrier layer.

30. (Original) The sole component recited in claim 26, wherein the bladder includes depressions extending along the sidewall, a portion of the reinforcing structure being positioned within the depressions and bonded to the depressions.

31. (Original) The sole component recited in claim 26, wherein the bladder includes at least one flexion indentation formed in the second surface, the indentation extending from a lateral side of the bladder to a medial side of the bladder.

32. (Original) The sole component recited in claim 31, wherein at least one interior bond joins the first surface with the indentation.

59. (New) The sole component recited in claim 58, wherein a spacing between the first surface and the second surface is greater in a heel region of the bladder than in a forefoot region of the bladder.

60. (New) The sole component recited in claim 59, wherein the bladder has a first width in the heel region and a second width in the forefoot region, the first width being less than the second width.

61. (New) The sole component recited in claim 58, wherein the bladder includes depressions extending along a sidewall of the bladder, a portion of the reinforcing structure being positioned within the depressions and bonded to the depressions.

62. (New) The sole component recited in claim 58, wherein the bladder includes at least one flexion indentation formed in the second surface, the indentation extending from a lateral side of the bladder to a medial side of the bladder.

63. (New) The sole component recited in claim 62, wherein at least one interior bond joins the first surface with the indentation.

64. (New) The sole component recited in claim 62, wherein the bladder includes two of the indentations.

65. (New) The sole component recited in claim 62, wherein the indentation is positioned in a forefoot region of the bladder.